NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ALBANY

AL 6 DOE,

Plaintiff,

SUMMONS

-against-

Index No.:

DIOCESE OF ALBANY a/k/a THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY, NEW YORK; ST. MARY'S CHURCH; ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH a/k/a ST. JOSEPH CHURCH a/k/a ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH a/k/a THE CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH; CONVENTUAL FRANCISCANS a/k/a ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR COVENTUAL, OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PROVINCE a/k/a FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PROVINCE, ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CONVENTUAL a/k/a ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CONVENTUAL IMMACULATE CONCEPTION a/k/a IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRIARY – ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CONVENTUAL a/k/a PROVINCE CHARITABLE TRUST a/k/a FRANCISCORPS, INC., RENSSELAER, NY a/k/a THE FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY, INC., ALBANY, NY a/k/a FRANCISCANS IN COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY, INC., RENSSELAER, NY; and DOES 1-5 whose identities are unknown to Plaintiff,

Defen	dants.		

To the above-named Defendants:

You are summoned and required to serve upon Plaintiff's attorneys, at the address stated below, an Answer to the attached Complaint.

If this Summons was personally served upon you in the State of New York, the Answer must be served within twenty (20) days after such service of the Summons, excluding the date of service. If the Summons was not personally delivered to you within the State of New York, the Answer must be served within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons is complete as provided by law.

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

INDEX NO. 905242-19

If you do not serve an Answer to the attached Complaint within the applicable time limitation stated above, a judgment may be entered against you, by default, for the relief demanded in the Complaint, without further notice to you.

The action will be heard in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, in and for the County of ALBANY. This action is brought in the County of ALBANY because it is the county in which the DIOCESE OF ALBANY resided when this action was commenced and because it is the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this claim occurred.

Dated: August 14, 2019

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

ynthia S. LaFave Esq. LaFave, Wein & Frament, PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 2400 Western Avenue Guilderland, New York 12084 518-869-9094

Jeffrey R. Anderson, Esq. J. Michael Reck, Esq. Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A. Attorneys for Plaintiff 52 Duane Street, Seventh Floor New York, New York 10007 646-759-2551

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ALBANY

AL 6 DOE,

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

-against-

Index No.:

DIOCESE OF ALBANY a/k/a THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY, NEW YORK; ST. MARY'S CHURCH; ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH a/k/a ST. JOSEPH CHURCH a/k/a ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH a/k/a THE CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH: CONVENTUAL FRANCISCANS a/k/a ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR COVENTUAL, OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PROVINCE a/k/a FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PROVINCE, ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CONVENTUAL a/k/a ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CONVENTUAL IMMACULATE CONCEPTION a/k/a IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRIARY -ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CONVENTUAL a/k/a PROVINCE CHARITABLE TRUST a/k/a FRANCISCORPS, INC., RENSSELAER, NY a/k/a THE FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY, INC., ALBANY, NY a/k/a FRANCISCANS IN COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY, INC., RENSSELAER, NY; and DOES 1-5 whose identities are unknown to Plaintiff.

1	Jefendants.	

Plaintiff, by and through Plaintiff's attorneys, states and alleges as follows:

PARTIES

- 1. At all times material to this Complaint, Plaintiff resided in the State of New York.
- 2. Plaintiff files this complaint under a fictitious name pursuant to Civil Rights Law §

50-b because this case involves a sexual assault.

control, or transaction of the entity's business or affairs.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

3. Whenever reference is made to any Defendant entity, such reference includes that entity, its parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, and successors. In addition, whenever reference is made to any act, deed, or transaction of any entity, the allegation means that the entity engaged in the act, deed, or transaction by or through its officers, directors, agents, employees, or representatives while they were actively engaged in the management, direction,

- Pursuant to §4 of the New York Child Victims Act, Plaintiff is entitled to a trial 4. preference.
- 5. At all times material, Defendant Diocese of Albany a/k/a The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, New York ("Diocese") was an organization or entity which includes, but is not limited to, civil corporations, decision making entities, officials, and employees, authorized to conduct business and conducting business in the State of New York with its principal place of business at 40 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203.
 - 6. The Diocese of Albany was created in approximately 1847.
- 7. Later, the Diocese created a corporation called The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, New York to conduct some of its affairs.
- 8. The Diocese operates its affairs as both a corporate entity and as the organization known as Diocese of Albany.
- 9. At all times material, the Diocese had several programs that seek out the participation of children including, but not limited to, schools and other educational programs.
- At all times material, the Diocese, through its officials, had complete control over 10. those activities and programs involving children.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

11. At all times material, the Diocese had the power to appoint each and every person working with children within the Diocese.

- 12. At all times material, the Diocese had the power to train each and every person working with children within the Diocese.
- 13. At all times material, the Diocese had the power to supervise each and every person working with children within the Diocese.
- At all times material, the Diocese had the power to monitor each and every person 14. working with children within the Diocese.
- 15. At all times material, the Diocese had the power to remove each and every person working with children within the Diocese.
- 16. At all times material, the Diocese had the power to terminate each and every person working with children within the Diocese.
- 17. At all times material, Defendant St. Mary's Church ("St. Mary's") was an organization authorized to conduct business in the State of New York, with its principal place of business at 200 Washington Street, Troy, New York 12180. St. Mary's includes, but is not limited to, the parish corporation and any other organizations and/or entities operating under the same or similar name with the same or similar principal place of business.
- 18. At all times material, St. Mary's was under the direct authority, control, and province of Defendant Diocese and the Bishop of the Diocese of Albany. Defendant St. Mary's includes any school affiliated with St. Mary's. At all times material, the parish was under the direct authority, control, and province of Defendant St. Mary's and the Bishop of the Diocese of Albany. At all times material, Defendants St. Mary's and Diocese owned, operated, managed, maintained, and controlled St. Mary's School.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

19. At all times material, Defendant St. Joseph's Church a/k/a St. Joseph Church a/k/a St. Joseph's Parish a/k/a The Church of St. Joseph ("St. Joseph's") was and continues to be an organization authorized to conduct business and conducting business in the State of New York, with its principal place of business at 416 3rd Street, Troy, New York 12180. Upon information and belief, St. Mary's was absorbed into St. Joseph's in a de facto merger or series of de facto mergers. Upon information and belief St. Joseph's continued the missions and ministry of St. Mary's, and remained under the direct authority, control and province of the Diocese of Albany and the Bishop of the Diocese of Albany after the merger(s). Upon information and belief St. Mary's ceased ordinary business operations as soon as possible after the transaction(s), and St. Joseph's assumed St. Mary's liabilities ordinarily necessary for the uninterrupted continuation of St. Mary's operations and business with a continuity of management, personnel, physical location and general business operation. St. Joseph's includes, but is not limited to, the parish corporation and any other organizations and/or entities operating under the same or similar name with the same or similar principal place of business.

- 20. At all times material, St. Joseph's was under the direct authority, control, and province of Defendant Diocese and the Bishop of the Diocese of Albany. Defendant St. Joseph's includes any school affiliated with St. Joseph's. At all times material, the parish was under the direct authority, control, and province of Defendant St. Joseph's and the Bishop of the Diocese of Albany. At all times material, Defendants St. Joseph's and Diocese owned, operated, managed, maintained, and controlled St. Joseph's School.
- 21. For purposes of this Complaint, Defendants St. Mary's and St. Joseph's are referred to collectively as "Parish."
 - 22. At all times material, Parish was under the authority of the Diocese.

FILED: ALBANY COUNTY CLERK 08/14/2019 02:14 AM

2 • 1 /L 7 M

INDEX NO. 905242-19

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

23. At all times material, Parish was under the control of the Diocese.

24. At all times material, Parish was under the province of the Diocese.

25. At all times material, Parish was under the authority of the Bishop of the Diocese.

26. At all times material, Parish was under the control of the Bishop of the Diocese.

27. At all times material, Parish was under the province of the Bishop of the Diocese.

28. Defendant Parish includes any school affiliated with Parish.

29. At all times material, the Diocese owned Parish.

30. At all times material, the Diocese operated Parish.

31. At all times material, the Diocese managed Parish.

32. At all times material, the Diocese maintained Parish.

33. At all times material, the Diocese controlled Parish.

34. At all times material, Defendant Conventual Franciscans a/k/a Order of Friars Minor Coventual, Our Lady of the Angels Province a/k/a Franciscan Friars of Our Lady of the Angels Province, Order of Friars Minor Conventual a/k/a Order of Friars Minor Conventual Immaculate Conception a/k/a Immaculate Conception Friary – Order of Friars Minor Conventual a/k/a Province Charitable Trust a/k/a Franciscorps, Inc., Rensselaer, NY a/k/a The Franciscan Center for Spirituality, Inc., Albany, NY a/k/a Franciscans in Collaborative Ministry, Inc., Rensselaer, NY ("Conventual Franciscans") was and continues to be a Roman Catholic religious order of priests and brothers affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church with its headquarters at 12300 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. The Conventual Franciscans are an organization or entity that includes, but is not limited to, civil corporations, decision making entities, officials, and employees, authorized to conduct business and conducting business in the State of New York with its principal place of business located at 75 St. Francis Place, Rensselaer,

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

New York 12144. The provincial is the top official of the Conventual Franciscans and is given authority over all matters dealing with the Conventual Franciscans as a result of his position. The Conventual Franciscans function as a business by engaging in numerous revenue producing activities and soliciting money in exchange for its services. The Conventual Franciscans have several programs that seek out the participation of children in the Conventual Franciscans' activities. The Conventual Franciscans, through its officials, have control over those activities involving children. The Conventual Franciscans have the power to appoint, supervise, monitor,

35. Defendants Does 1 through 5 are unknown agents whose identities will be provided when they become known pursuant to C.P.L.R. § 1024.

and fire each person working with children with the Conventual Franciscans.

JURISDICTION

- 36. This Court has jurisdiction because the Diocese of Albany's principal place of business is in New York.
- 37. This Court has jurisdiction because the unlawful conduct complained of herein occurred in New York.
- Venue is proper because Albany County is the principal place of business of 38. Defendant Diocese of Albany.
- Venue is proper because many of the events giving rise to this action occurred in 39. Albany County.

FACTS

- 40. At all times material, Father John, O.F.M. Conv. ("Fr. John") was a Roman Catholic priest employed by the Diocese of Albany, Parish and Conventual Franciscans.
 - At all times material, Fr. John remained under the supervision of the Diocese. 41.

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

42. At all times material, Fr. John remained under the employ of the Diocese.

43. At all times material, Fr. John remained under the control of the Diocese.

At all times material, Fr. John remained under the supervision of Parish. 44.

45. At all times material, Fr. John remained under the employ of Parish.

46. At all times material, Fr. John remained under the control of Parish.

47. At all times material, Fr. John remained under the supervision of Conventual Franciscans.

48. At all times material, Fr. John remained under the employ of Conventual

Franciscans.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

49. At all times material, Fr. John remained under the control of Conventual

Franciscans.

50. The Diocese placed Fr. John in positions where he had access to and worked with

children as a part of his work.

51. Parish placed Fr. John in positions where he had access to and worked with children

as a part of his work.

52. The Conventual Franciscans placed Fr. John in positions where he had access to

and worked with children as a part of his work.

Plaintiff attended St. Mary's Church and School in Troy, New York, in the Diocese 53.

of Albany.

54. When Plaintiff was a child, St. Mary's often had Franciscan priests from its

seminary and residence in nearby Rensselaer, New York, visit St. Mary's to say mass and fill in

for St. Mary's regular priests.

7

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

55. Fr. John was a Franciscan Friar from St. Anthony-on-Hudson, a seminary and residence owned and operated by Defendant Conventual Franciscans, in Rensselaer, New York.

- 56. Fr. John said mass at St. Mary's on multiple occasions in approximately 1965 and 1966.
- 57. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's family came in contact with Fr. John as an agent and representative of Defendants, and at St. Mary's.
- Plaintiff was a student, an altar server and participated in youth activities and/or 58. church activities at St. Mary's.
 - 59. Each Defendant had custody of Plaintiff.
 - 60. Each Defendant accepted the entrustment of Plaintiff.
 - 61. Each Defendant had responsibility for Plaintiff.
 - 62. Each Defendant had authority over Plaintiff.
- 63. From approximately 1965 to 1966, when Plaintiff was approximately 13 years old, Fr. John engaged in unpermitted sexual contact with Plaintiff.
- Each Defendant owed a duty of care to Plaintiff not to place Fr. John in a setting 64. that would foreseeably pose a danger to Plaintiff.
- 65. Defendants knew or should have known that Fr. John was a danger to children before Fr. John sexually assaulted Plaintiff.
- 66. Prior to the sexual abuse of Plaintiff, Defendants knew or should have known that Fr. John was not fit to work with children.
- Defendants, by and through their agents, servants and/or employees, knew or 67. should have known of Fr. John's propensity to commit sexual abuse and of the risk to Plaintiff's safety.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

INDEX NO. 905242-19

68. Defendants knew or should have known that they did not have sufficient information about whether or not their leaders and people working at Catholic institutions within the Diocese were safe.

- 69. Defendants knew or should have known that there was a risk of child sex abuse for children participating in Catholic programs and activities within the Diocese.
- 70. Defendants knew or should have known that they did not have sufficient information about whether or not there was a risk of child sex abuse for children participating in Catholic programs and activities within the Diocese.
- 71. Defendants knew or should have known that Defendants had numerous agents who had sexually molested children.
- 72. Defendants knew or should have known that child molesters have a high rate of recidivism.
- 73. Defendants knew or should have known that some of the leaders and people working in Catholic institutions within the Diocese were not safe and that there was a danger of child sex abuse for children participating in their youth programs.
 - 74. Defendants negligently deemed that Fr. John was fit to work with children.
- 75. Defendants negligently deemed that any previous problems that Fr. John had were fixed or cured.
- 76. Defendants negligently deemed that Fr. John would not sexually assault children and/or that Fr. John would not injure children.
- 77. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care because they had superior knowledge about the risk that Fr. John posed to Plaintiff, the risk of abuse in general in their programs and/or the risks that their facilities posed to minor children.

NYSCEF DOC. NO.

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

78. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiff to protect Plaintiff from harm because

Defendants' actions created a foreseeable risk of harm to Plaintiff.

As a vulnerable child participating in the programs and activities Defendants 79.

offered to minors. Plaintiff was a foreseeable victim.

80. As a vulnerable child who Fr. John had access to through Defendants' facilities and

programs, Plaintiff was a foreseeable victim.

81. Defendants also breached their duty to Plaintiff by actively maintaining and

employing Fr. John in a position of power and authority through which Fr. John had access to

children, including Plaintiff, and power and control over children, including Plaintiff.

82. Each Defendant breached its duties to Plaintiff. Defendants failed to use ordinary

care in determining whether their facilities were safe and/or determining whether they had

sufficient information to represent their facilities as safe. Defendants' breach of their duties

include, but are not limited to: failure to protect Plaintiff from a known danger, failure to have

sufficient policies and procedures to prevent child sex abuse, failure to properly implement policies

and procedures to prevent child sex abuse, failure to take reasonable measures to make sure that

policies and procedures to prevent child sex abuse were working, failure to adequately inform

families and children of the risks of child sex abuse, failure to investigate risks of child sex abuse,

failure to properly train the employees at institutions and programs within Defendants'

geographical confines, failure to train parishioners within Defendants' geographical confines about

the risk of sexual abuse; failure to have any outside agency test their safety procedures, failure to

protect the children in their programs from child sex abuse, failure to adhere to the applicable

standard of care for child safety, failure to investigate the amount and type of information

necessary to represent the institutions, programs, leaders and people as safe, failure to train their

10

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

employees properly to identify signs of child sexual abuse by fellow employees, failure by relying upon mental health professionals, and/or failure by relying on people who claimed that they could

treat child molesters.

83. Defendants also breached their duty to Plaintiff by failing to warn Plaintiff and

Plaintiff's family of the risk that Fr. John posed and the risks of child sexual abuse in Catholic

institutions.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

84. Defendants also failed to warn Plaintiff or Plaintiff's family about any of the

knowledge that Defendants had about child sexual abuse.

85. Defendants additionally violated a legal duty by failing to report known and/or

suspected abuse of children by Fr. John and/or its other agents to the police and law enforcement.

86. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct described herein, Plaintiff

has suffered, and will continue to suffer, sexual and physical damage and abuse, great pain of mind

and body, severe and permanent emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress,

embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, humiliation, physical, personal and psychological injuries.

Plaintiff was prevented, and will continue to be prevented, from performing normal daily activities

and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or has incurred and will continue to incur expenses

for psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling, and, on information and belief has and/or

will incur loss of income and/or loss of earning capacity.

87. The limitations of Article 16 of the CPLR do not apply because one or more of the

exceptions set forth in CPLR 1601 and/or 1602 apply.

<u>AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS PARISH AND</u> DIOCESE IN PREMISES LIABILITY

88. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as if fully

set forth at length herein.

11

13 of 19

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

89. Each Defendant owed Plaintiff a duty to protect Plaintiff from harm because Defendants invited Plaintiff onto their property.

- 90. Fr. John posed a dangerous condition on Defendants' property.
- 91. Each Defendant allowed Fr. John to remain on Defendants' property even though they knew or should have known of Fr. John's dangerous sexual propensities.
- 92. Fr. John was dangerous, unsafe, and posed a risk of serious injury to any persons who were lawfully in and about said area.
- 93. Each Defendant knew or should have known of the danger posed by Fr. John and despite said notice, each Defendant failed, refused, and/or neglected to remove, reassign, or restrict Fr. John's access to children, and were otherwise careless and negligent such that a great risk of serious injury to persons who are lawfully in and about said area was caused and/or allowed to exist.
- 94. Each Defendant knew or should have known that Fr. John posed an unreasonable risk of harm and a foreseeable danger to Plaintiff.
- 95. Defendants knew or should have known that Fr. John was a danger to children before Fr. John sexually assaulted Plaintiff.
- 96. Defendants knew or should have known that Fr. John was not fit to work with children and had a propensity to engage in conduct with children that was sexual in nature before Fr. John sexually assaulted Plaintiff.
- 97. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical, emotional, and psychological injuries, along with pain and suffering.
- 98. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS IN NEGLIGENCE

- 99. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.
- Each Defendant voluntarily undertook to control, care for, and/or supervise 100. Plaintiff.
- 101. Each Defendant owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care to protect the Plaintiff from injury.
- 102. Each Defendant breached its duties to Plaintiff by failing to use reasonable care. Defendants' failures include, but are not limited to, failing to properly supervise Fr. John, failing to properly supervise Plaintiff, and failing to protect Plaintiff from a known danger.
- Defendants knew or should have known that Fr. John was a danger to children before Fr. John sexually assaulted Plaintiff.
- 104. Defendants knew or should have known that Fr. John was not fit to work with children and had a propensity to engage in conduct with children that was sexual in nature before Fr. John sexually assaulted Plaintiff.
- 105. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical, emotional, and psychological injuries, along with pain and suffering.
- 106. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS IN NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION OF ITS EMPLOYEES AND ENTITIES

Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as if fully 107. set forth at length herein.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

At all times material, Fr. John was employed by Defendants and was under 108. Defendants' direct supervision, employ, and control when he committed the wrongful acts alleged herein.

- 109. Fr. John engaged in the wrongful conduct while acting in the course and scope of his employment with Defendants and/or accomplished the sexual abuse by virtue of his job-created authority.
 - 110. Defendants had a duty to ensure that Fr. John did not sexually molest children.
- Defendants had a duty to train and educate employees and administrators and 111. establish adequate and effective policies and procedures calculated to detect, prevent, and address inappropriate behavior and conduct between clerics and children.
- Defendants were negligent in the training, supervision, and instruction of their 112. employees.
- Defendants failed to timely and properly educate, train, supervise, and/or monitor 113. their agents or employees with regard to policies and procedures that should be followed when sexual abuse of a child is suspected or observed.
- 114. Defendants were additionally negligent in failing to supervise, monitor, chaperone, and/or investigate Fr. John and/or in failing to create, institute, and/or enforce rules, policies, procedures, and/or regulations to prevent Fr. John's sexual abuse of Plaintiff.
- In failing to properly supervise Fr. John, and in failing to establish such training 115. procedures for employees and administrators, Defendants failed to exercise the care that a reasonably prudent person or entity would have exercised under similar circumstances.
- 116. Defendants knew or should have known that Fr. John was a danger to children before Fr. John sexually assaulted Plaintiff.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

Defendants knew or should have known that Fr. John was not fit to work with 117. children and had a propensity to engage in conduct with children that was sexual in nature before Fr. John sexually assaulted Plaintiff.

- As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical, emotional, and psychological injuries, along with pain and suffering.
- As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount which 119. exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS IN NEGLIGENT RETENTION

- 120. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.
- Defendants knew or should have known of Fr. John's propensity for child sexual abuse, and failed to take any further action to remedy the problem and failed to investigate or remove Fr. John from working with children.
- 122. Defendants negligently retained Fr. John with knowledge of Fr. John's propensity for the type of behavior which resulted in Plaintiff's injuries in this action.
- Defendants negligently retained Fr. John in a position where he had access to 123. children and could foreseeably cause harm which Plaintiff would not have been subjected to had Defendants acted reasonably.
- In failing to timely remove Fr. John from working with children, Defendants failed 124. to exercise the degree of care that a reasonably prudent person or entity would have exercised under similar circumstances.
- 125. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical, emotional, and psychological injuries, along with pain and suffering.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

126. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff claims to have been damaged in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS IN NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

- 127. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every paragraph of this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.
- Each Defendant owed a duty of care to Plaintiff not to place Fr. John in a setting that would foreseeably pose a danger to Plaintiff.
- Defendants knew or should have known that Fr. John was a danger to children before Fr. John sexually assaulted Plaintiff.
- 130. Defendants knew or should have known that Fr. John had a propensity to engage in conduct with children that was sexual in nature before Fr. John sexually assaulted Plaintiff.
- 131. Each Defendant breached its duties to Plaintiff by failing to use reasonable care. Each Defendant's failures include, but are not limited to, failing to properly supervise Fr. John, failing to properly supervise Plaintiff and failing to protect Plaintiff from a known danger.
- 132. The negligence and conduct of each Defendant unreasonably endangered the physical safety of Plaintiff.
- The aforementioned negligence of each Defendant was a direct and proximate cause of the extreme emotional and psychological harm and distress suffered by Plaintiff and unreasonably endangered Plaintiff's safety.
- 134. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical, emotional, and psychological injuries, along with pain and suffering.
- As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount which 135. exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

FILED: ALBANY COUNTY CLERK 08/14/2019 02:14 AM

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 905242-19

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/14/2019

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, on Plaintiff's First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Causes of Action in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction, together with interest as allowed by statute, the costs and disbursements of this action, and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: August 14, 2019 Guilderland, NY

> by: for:

Cynthia S. LaFave, Esq.

LaFave, Wein & Frament, PLLC

Attorneys for Plaintiff 2400 Western Avenue

Guilderland, New York 12084

518-869-9094

Jeffrey R. Anderson, Esq.
J. Michael Reck, Esq.
Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
52 Duane Street, Seventh Floor
New York, New York 10007
646-759-2551